

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 800.796/131 FOR Desp. #24

FROM Aden (Callanan) DATED May 18, 1934

TO NAME 1-1127 ..

REGARDING:

Aeronautic information from Eritrea.
Transmits -.

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865A.796/1

(In compliance with Department's Instruction of April 2, 1934, File No. 800.796/121, enclosing Commerce letter 27-e of March 28, 1934 and Questionnaire 27c).

SPECIAL AERONAUTIC INFORMATION

ERITREA

From:-

Leo J. Callahan
American Consul

Aden, Arabia.

Date of Completion: May 18, 1934

Date of Mailing : May 22, 1934

Requirements- Whether Flying Over or Landing

There is no commercial aviation in Eritrea, and such facilities as exist are maintained by the Italian Government for military purposes. Advance permission should be obtained from the Italian Air Ministry before undertaking flights to Eritrea.

Radio Stations, Call Letters and Codes

There is an Italian Government Radio Station at Massawa handling official and commercial traffic, of which particulars are not yet available. There is, however, no regular broadcasting of meteorological data or communicating with aircraft.

Meteorological Conditions

The coastal region has scarce and irregular winter rains,
relatively

relatively high humidity, slight variations of temperature and maximum summer temperatures up to 110° Fah. It comprises a coastal strip only a few kilometres deep.

The eastern lowlands have slight rainfall only in the winter, moderate humidity and a greater variation of temperatures than the coastal strip.

The eastern slopes, consisting of hills and valleys descending to the Red Sea, have summer and winter rains. The rainfall varies between 51 and 54 inches per year. The maximum temperature on the slopes is about 85° Fah.

The temperate highlands have altitudes over 1,700 metres. Temperature variations are considerable and humidity slight. There are regular summer rains, and in some localities in the winter the weather is cold.

The western slopes decline rapidly and have considerable dependable winter rainfall.

The western lowlands are hot, with relatively low humidity and slight winter rains.

Airports

The enclosure herewith contains such information as is available concerning aircraft landing facilities in Eritrea, but it should be noted that the colony has no commercial air services. The existent facilities are those of the Italian Air Ministry.

File No. 879.6/LJC/MER.

Enclosure: Questionnaire 27c on Massawa, Eritrea.

Distribution: Original and 4 copies to Department.

A true copy of
this signed original.
MSK

Information on Aircraft Landing Facility

MASSAUA AIRPORT, Massaua, Eritrea.

LOCATION

Lat. 14° 49' N. Long. 38° 45' E.

The city of Massaua is 3 Km. west of the airport, which is approximately at sea level. The city and port of Massaua serve to locate the airport.

DESCRIPTION

The airport is 1 kilometre square.

OBSTUCTION

There are high tension electric wires about 100 metres from the field, running parallel with the northern side. They are not lighted at night.

MARKING AND IDENTIFICATION

There is a white circle in the center of the field and a landing T, but there are no markings on hangars or buildings.

LIGHTING

There is no lighting and the field is not equipped for night flying.

ACCOMMODATION

Shell aviation gasoline and Castrol are available, and there is one hangar of the Italian Air Ministry. Other facilities are to be found in Massaua.

COMMUNICATION AND SIGNAL EQUIPMENT

None at the airport. Telegraph and a Radio Station are at Massaua. No weather map available.

METEOROLOGICAL DATA

General conditions are tropical. (See covering report herewith).

REMARKS

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There are no roof markings or beacons. The city of Muscat is the only large community in the vicinity of the airport, and would serve to locate it.

Reported May 18, 1954, by Leo J. Callahan, American Consul,
Aden, Arabia.

Central File: Decimal File 865A.796, Internal Affairs Of States, Other Means Of Communication And Transportation. Carrier Pigeons., Eritrea, Aerial Navigation. Immunities Of Government-Controlled. Subsidies., May 18, 1934. 18 May 1934. MS European Colonialism in the Early 20th Century. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com/apps/doc/FSC5109731260/FGDSC?u=Domni&sid=bookmark-GDSC. Accessed 18 June 2025.